

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NEW DE 15650 251133Z

11/50

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 ACDA-05 EB-07 TRSE-00

FRB-03 COME-00 AID-05 CIEP-01 /092 W

----- 018517

O R 241252Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2423

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL MADRAS

USLO PEKING

USIA WASHDC

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 15650

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CORRECT GARBLED PARAGRAPH 1.)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, BG

SUBJECT: BANGLADESH: PRESS REACTION

REF: NEW DELHI 15539

SUMMARY: DELHI PRESS NOVEMBER 24 REPORTS PRESIDENT FORD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NEW DE 15650 251133Z

PROMISING NEW BANGLADESH AMBASSADOR "ALL HELP." PRAVDA'S

NOVEMBER 23 ARTICLE WARNING OF EXTREMISTS IN BANGLADESH IS GIVEN WIDE COVERAGE. THE ONLY DELHI PAPER TO EDITORIALIZE ON BANGLADESH NOVEMBER 24 IS THE CPI'S DAILY "PATRIOT." THE SITUATION THERE COULD BE CONSTRUED AS INTERNAL, THE PAPER ARGUES, IF IT WERE NOT FOR THE LIKELIHOOD OF FOREIGN INTERFERENCE. THE INDIAN PEOPLE ARE SAID TO WONDER WHETHER FOREIGN INSPIRED (I.E. US) DESTABILIZATION OPERATIONS IN BANGLADESH ARE NOT INTENDED TO SPILL OVER INTO INDIA. THE NOVEMBER 23 PRESS WIDELY REPORTS A REUTER'S STORY OF NEW CRISIS WITHIN THE BANGLADESH ARMED FORCES. TWO CALCUTTA PAPERZ NOVEMBER 21 REPORT THAT AN ANTI-INDIAN CAMPAIGN IS BEING WAGED IN BANGLADESH. A GOWB SOURCE, THE PAPERS REPORT, ATTRIBUTES THE CAMPAIGN TO THE GOB. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THAT GOWB SOURCE HAS BRIEFED THE PRESS ON THIS SUBJECT OR SO SQUARELY BLAMED THE GOV FOR ANTI-INDIAN ACTIVITIES. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT FORD'S STATEMENTS TO THE NEW BANGLADESH AMBASSADOR NOVEMBER 21 AT THE PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS CEREMONY RECEIVED FRONT PAGE COVERAGE IN FOUR OF THE SIX NEW DELHI MORNING PAPERS NOVEMBER 24. "TIMES OF INDIA" TITLES STORY: "FORD ASSURES ALL HELP TO BANGLADESH," WHILE CPI'S DAILY "PATRIOT" HEADLINES: "US PLEDGES ALL HELP TO DACCA." PRESS NOVEMBER 24 ALSO GIVES CONSIDERABLE PLAY T NOVEMBER 23 PRAVDA ARTICLE HEADLINED:: "ALARMING SITUATION IN BANGLADESH." PRAVDA REPORTEDLY EXPRESSES CONCERN FOR EFFORTS OF RIGHT AND LEFT WING EXTREMISTS TO CREATE AN "ATMOSPHERE OF TERROR, VICTIMIZATION OF GENUINELY DEMOCRATIC FIGURES AND ORGANIZATIONS IN BANGLADESH."

2. "PATRIOT" IS THE ONLY CAPITAL PAPER TO EDITORIALIZE ON BANGLADESH NOVEMBER 24. NO ONE, ACCORDING TO THE DAILY, EVEN IN BANGLADESH KNOWS WHAT IS HAPPENING WITHIN "THE SO-CALLED 'ARMED FORCES' OF THAT COUNTRY. BY ALL ACCOUNTS THERE HAVE BEEN MANY KILLINGS AND COLD-BLOODED BURTHERY IS CONTINUING." THE POLITICAL VACUUM CREATED BY THE ASSASSINATION OF MUJIB AND "HUNDREDS OF OTHER LEADERS" SHOWS NO SIGNS OF BEING FILLED. "PATRIOT" STATES THAT THE CONFUSION IN BANGLADESH COULD BE DISMISSED AS A PURELY INTERNAL MATTER, "IF THERE WERE NO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 NEW DE 15650 251133Z

ANXIETY THAT CERTAIN FOREIGN POWERS ARE ALREADY INTERFERING AND MAY INCREASE THEIR INTEREST IN THE TRAGIC SITUATION." REFERRING TO SECRETARY KISSINGER AS "THE GREAT DESTABILIZER," "PATRIOT" COMMENTS THAT WITH THE MEMORY OF CHILE FRESH IN MIND "THE PEOPLE OF INDIA CANNOT BUT WONDER WHETHER DESTABILIZATION OPERATIONS ARE NOT ALREADY IN TRAIN AND ARE NOT INTENDED TO FLOW ACROSS THE FRONTIERS OF BANGLADESH." THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES WITH A WARNING THAT "SPILL-OVER

OF CONFUSION FROM BANGLADESH" INTO INDIA SHOULD BE PREVENTED.

3. THE NOVEMBER 23 DELHI PRESS FEATURES A NOVEMBER 22 REUTER'S STORY THAT BANGLADESH FACES A NEW CRISIS FROM A THREATENED REVOLT IN THE ARMED FORCES. TANKS ARE IN PLACE IN DACCA AND A NEW CURFEW IS REPORTED IN EFFECT.

4. CALCUTTA'S MASS CIRCULATION BENGALI LANGUAGE ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA (NON-PARTY BUT CONSERVATIVE) IN FRONT PAGE STORY NOVEMBER 21 BY A STAFF REPORTER SAYS ANTI-INDIAN FEELING IN BANGLADESH IS BECOMING EVIDENT ALL AROUND. STORY SAYS ANTI-INDIAN POSTERS WITH SLOGANS HAVE APPEARED IN DACCA, MYMENSINGH, RANGPUR, BOGRA, JESSORE, PABNA, AND OTHER LARGE TOWNS. PAPER SAYS A GOWB SOURCE SAID ON NOVEMBER 20 THAT ALTHOUGH THE POSTERS ARE ANTI-INDIAN THEY DO NOT INCITE TO COMMUNAL VIOLENCE. GOWB SOURCE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST INDIA RESULTS FROM THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE CURRENT BANGLADESH RULING GROUP.

5. CPM DAILY WTYJUG NOVEMBER 21 ALSO CARRIES STORY REPORTING ANTI-INDIAN PROPAGANDA IN DACCA IS WIDESPREAD. PAPER SAYS "ANTI-INDIAN CAMPAIGN HAS NOW BEEN STEPPED UP IN A PLANNED WAY, THROUGH POSTERS, HANDBILLS AND OTHER MEDIA" BOTH IN DACCA AND THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. SATYJUG REPORTS THAT GOWB SOURCE SAID THAT ANTI-INDIAN CAMPAIGN STARTED ON NOVEMBER 7, DAY GENERAL KHALED MOSHARREF WAS KILLED AND ZIA RAHMAN SEIZED POWER, INDIAN AIRLINES OFFICE IN DACCA WAS ATTACKED, AND DEMONSTRATION OCCURRED IN FRONT OF INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION. PAPER SAYS GOWB SOURCE SAID THIS ANTI-INDIAN CAMPAIGN WAS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF SUPPORT FROM BANGLADESH RULING CLIQUE.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 NEW DE 15650 251133Z

6. COMMENT: EVIDENTLY THE GOWB SOURCE CITED IN THE ANANDA AND SATYJUG REPORTS IS ONE AND THE SAME. CENSOR HAS UP TO NOW PASSED VERY LITTLE ON ANTI-INDIAN OUTBURSTS IN BANGLADESH. MOREOVER THIS IS THE FIRST TIME, TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, THAT A GOWB SOURCE HAS BRIEFED THE PRESS ON THIS SUBJECT OR THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANTI-INDIAN ACTIVITIES HAS BEEN LAID SO SQUARELY AT THE DOORSTEP OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH. WHILE ONLY ANANDA AND SATYJUG CARRY THIS STORY, IT MAY BE A HARBINGER OF MORE TO COME IN DAYS AHEAD.
SAXBE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, INTERVENTION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE15650
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750410-0248
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751115/aaaaankw.tel
Line Count: 166
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 NEW DELHI 15539
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BANGLADESH: PRESS REACTION
TAGS: PFOR, IN, BG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006